



# *the* RARA RAG

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## *Have A Great Summer*

### Election Results

Marykay Vesco, KC2DPG

As the new incoming President of RARA I would like to congratulate the new officers for next season. I am looking forward to working with all of them and to lead RARA so as to continue being the great organization that it is. I want to thank you all in advance for a very active participation in our ongoing efforts to increase RARA membership and make it the biggest and best club around. They are: Vice President—George Platteter, AA2FO; Secretary—Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY; and Treasurer—Richard Goslee, K2VCZ; Board of Directors—Dale Fravel, N2LWY; Greg Michels, KC2GXV; Jack Tripp, W2JAT; Keith Freeberg, N2BEL; Ed Holdsworth, N2EH; Bill Hopkins, AA2YA; and George Masny, KA2GPJ.

Congratulations also go out again to George Masny as our new Membership Chairman.

If you have any issues, items, or ideas that you think RARA needs to address, please do not hesitate to contact any officers or board member. We are all here to help make RARA the best ham club around and we can only do it with the help and cooperation from all members. You are an important part of this team so please make your voice be heard and count, as this is a wonderful historic hobby. Lets not let it whither away; help find new ways to keep people interested and gain more new faces in our membership. This is the first time RARA has ever had a woman as the President. Hopefully this will be a great advantage to getting more women as members and interested in our hobby.

Again, congratulations to all!!

### Rochester Hamfest – 2002

Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

The long awaited Rochester Hamfest/Atlantic Division Convention is now “history.” However, with the exception of the bad weather (rain and wind) on Friday afternoon the Hamfest was a huge success in many people’s eyes. It is hoped that you are one of those folks and that everyone had a great time. A Ham from the local area even won the grand prize drawing on Sunday. There seems to be a lot of new equipment that will soon be heard on the air and that is great news for many. It is to bad that we now have to wait a full year for the next big event to be right in our own back yard.

If you are one of the thousands of people that attended the Hamfest but did not go to the awards banquet on Friday evening, you missed a great time and a lot of laughs with your friends. Not only that but you missed a great meal as well. The Atlantic Division Director, Bernie Fuller presented the Amateur of the Year award to all the Hams in the Hudson Division that provided many hours of service after September 11<sup>th</sup>. Frank Fallon, N2FF, the Hudson Division Director, accepted the award for these people. There were hundreds and hundreds of amateurs that gave many hours of their time to help others and they greatly deserve this award.

The Awards Committee selected Bob Arnold, N2JEU as the 2002 Atlantic Division Technical Achievement award winner. Bob’s work was featured in a November 2001 QST article entitled “Remote Controlled HF Opera-

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## Memorial Scholarship Awarded At Hamfest Banquet

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

Kristy Dibelka, KC2GKE of Rochester was recipient of the 2002 Rochester Amateur Radio Association's Memorial Scholarship. Kristy and her husband Mark, AB2LI were guests at the May 31<sup>st</sup> Hamfest Banquet when she received the award. Kristy is matriculated in MCC's new Massage Therapy program and is planning to receive an AAS degree next year. Kristy and her husband were very appreciative for the monetary award and were encouraged by the thought behind it. Kristy mentioned that it will help ends meet in the family as she goes to school and cares for their child at home.

This is the second RARA Memorial Scholarship awarded. It is financed by interest from RARA's Memorial Scholarship fund. Silent keys William Buchan, W2OMV; William Resch, K4VOS; and Leland Zwack W2WPF stimulated considerable funding.

## From The President of RRRA

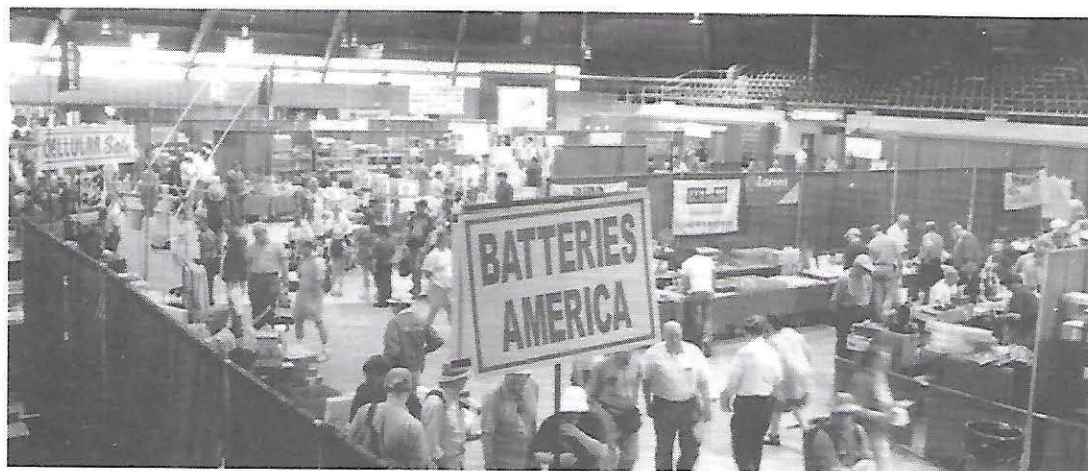
Brad Allen, KB2CHY

Here it is, June already and both the Dayton and Rochester Hamfest are behind us. This has been an exciting year for RRRA with the rebuild of the 146.88 repeater. Those of you that have used it, please continue to do so. This year at the Hamfest booth, we were showing an all out effort that we do exist. We are happy that Pacific Research Solutions had chosen our Hamfest to attend. This was exciting to us because we had chosen Pacific's RI-300e controller for the 146.88 repeater. Gregg is a terrific engineer and he was here to educate. His booth was next to the RRRA booth. Gregg is a hands on person and he always brings a working repeater and a number of his products. Gregg and his wife Debbie came all the way here from Diamond Springs, California so we want them to know that it was really appreciated. I tried to be sure they enjoyed their stay in Rochester.

Elections are in the air for new officers for

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## Rochester Hamfest—*Continued from page 1)*

tion over the Internet". He had been involved in working on remote controlled receivers which was the predecessor to the transmit and receive functions used over the Internet. His work was the pioneering effort that developed the software interface that enabled Keith Lamonica, W7DXX to setup the first remote controlled station using a Kachina 505DSP, then later a Ten Tec Pegasus, and now a Kenwood TS2000. It was unfortunate that Bob was unable to be with us to accept his award but our congratulations go out to him.

RARA President, Peter Fournia, W2SKY also presented the RARA Memorial Scholarship to this years recipient, Kristy Dibelka, KC2GKE. This scholarship is presented each year on behalf of donations made by three silent keys.

There were many good programs to attend and many of you did. There were also, a lot of good demonstrations taking place in the Dome. For example right in the RARA booth you could have seen many modes being operated at any

*(Continued on page 6)*



Sunday Morning Weather Net





# Spring License Class

Norm Turner, WB2LQB

The spring 2002 RARA License classes ended on May 13, 2002 with a very successful Volunteer Examiner session. The following new amateurs have successfully passed their Technician exam: Diana Zunica, Lisa DiBiase, Sandra Donnelly, Edward Martin (with 5 WPM Code), James Peasley, David Peasley, Donald P. Dohr (with code), Donald W. Dohr (with code), John Griffiths, Dale Weiss, Thomas Peechatt, Alan Smith, Amy Smith, and David Evans. The following amateurs have successfully upgraded: Thomas Frew, KC2EZI—Five WPM Code and General; Robert Horner, KB2YEM—General; and David Bowman, N2VDO—Certificate of Completion for element 3.



Technician Class



Code Class



General Class



Extra Class

We had some students who just couldn't wait for May 13<sup>th</sup> to upgrade: Ron Pearson, N2TLX—General and Amateur Extra; Frank Iachetta, AB2OV—Amateur Extra; Jim Faux, N2KTM and Gino Berno, KC2JIG—General.

Overall this was a very successful session. Many thanks go out to the instructors who give long hours preparing for the classes as well as the commitment to teach every Monday; Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY; Lynn Rosenberg, N2IZX; Carl Preddy, KU2N; and Allen Skiles, N2VY. Their dedication to the task is second to none. We had a 90+% passing rate in all classes.

Thanks also go to the VE's who gave of their Monday night to assist in our class: Ray Mattice, K2PWJ; Ray Perkins, WA2MYG; Robert Moore, N2USB; Mary Kay Vesco, KC2DPG; and their leader George Platteter, AA2FO.

Registration for the next session will be Monday Sept 9, 2002 at 7 PM at 111 Westfall

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# Travel Fun With Your HT

Warren Boudrie, AA2LQ

The day finally arrived. W2JAT (Jack), N2TOC (Tom) and myself AA2LQ (Warren) along with the XYL's boarded AMTRAK for 19 days of train, bus and ship travel. Each of us, armed with our Yaesu VX5's, could not have anticipated the amount and variety of contacts we would make as we journeyed westward. The first leg of our trip was from Rochester with an overnight stay in Toronto and then on to Vancouver, BC with several day stops in Jasper, Banff and Lake Louise. We decided to communicate among ourselves on the train using FRS (Family Radio) frequencies so we would not have to constantly identify by call sign. With expanded receive/transmit, the VX5 did a great job with FRS.

Prior to our trip, W2JAT prepared a listing of all the repeater and Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) nodes within 10 miles of the path we would follow. Our first overnight stop was Toronto. From my hotel room at the Royal York I set my HT to the IRLP frequency of the local node, keyed in 4250 and was immediately connected to WR2ROC. From there on it was as if I was in Rochester on the 443.600 repeater. A call for "anyone on frequency" immediately got a response from a KC2 in Rochester and I had made my first IRLP contact home while many miles away.

Traveling west via rail, many VE contacts were made by W2JAT and N2TOC. The Canadian hams were great to talk to and they offered us many tips on repeaters ahead of us.

Other interesting IRLP contacts home while traveling on the first leg of our trip included one made from a node in Edmonton, Alberta to K2AS (Brian) and another from a node in the Canadian Rockies to N2HKD (Curtis). Amazing, because it was about midnight Rochester time for Curtis. When arriving in Vancouver, W2JAT had a nice QSO with Logan (VE7TLH) at IRLP node 100 (VE7RHS). This is the home of IRLP and although Logan was not the trustee of the node, he was taking care of it while the system people were out of town. Logan proved to be extremely helpful by describing the node and providing information on what we would encounter on the next leg of our trip.

The second leg of our trip was a cruise to

Alaska (Round trip from Vancouver) on the inland waterway. The ship rented FRS radios to passengers resulting in those frequencies being quite busy. Therefore, we switched to 446.100 simplex to communicate among ourselves. On a ship with over 2000 passengers, the ability to talk and locate each other was a major benefit.

While cruising to Alaska we contacted many local hams and had many very interesting QSO's. There are a few IRLP nodes in Alaska; however, we found them to be off the air while we were there. As we cruised back into Vancouver harbor, we again tried node 100. Within a very short period of time we had solid voice connections with KC2NM (Mike) and WB2SSJ (Tex), hams in Rochester we know quite well. Also, while at sea, W2JAT Jack contacted AB2MO (Brad) in Rochester.

The last leg of our trip was via bus from Vancouver to Seattle and then a very shaky ride on AMTRAK back to Rochester. Yes, the AMTRAK tracks are not as smooth as the ones in Canada. During this portion of the trip, we enjoyed making contacts along the route.

If you are not familiar with IRLP, visit <http://www.irlp.net> and become familiar with how you can communicate home with just a HT while traveling thousands of miles away. The FLARES website, <http://www.flares.monroe.edu>, will give you information regarding W2COP's (Jim) local WR2ROC repeater/IRLP node on 443.6. There are nodes in many countries and more are being added almost daily. If you get a chance, give IRLP a try.



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one time. These include everything from HF, digital modes, ATV and even the National Weather Services Sunday morning net took place there.

While you were in the flea market enjoying yourself you may have come across a lot of old friends. Some at tables, others wandering around looking at things, and still others that had special meeting places and tents. The Rochester DX Association and the Rochester VHF Group are two that had special tents set up at the rear of the flea market. Also, there was a group that still meets on the air to operate AM.

In all there was lots to do and a lot of fun to be had by all. It is hoped that you were one of the ones that partook in that experience. If you weren't you need to make plans to attend the next great Hamfest in exactly one year.

## Chairman's Award

Harold Smith, K2HC

For the past several years at our annual Hamfest banquet a Chairman's Award has been presented to a person who has contributed greatly to the success of our Rochester Hamfest. This year, no individual award was made.

Because of a physical disability, your writer/chairman had to ask for unprecedented assistance to make the 2002 Rochester Hamfest happen. Many people stepped up to help. Each and every one of those people deserves their own award. They know who they are.

Everyone has a unique talent. You can become part of the "They know who they are" list next time out. Send an email to [harold@rochesterhamfest.org](mailto:harold@rochesterhamfest.org). Tell me you want to help. Tell me what your expertise is and what you would like to do to help us remain successful.



AM operators get together for an eyeball QSO in the rear of flea market

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## License Class Schedule 2002—2003

Norm Turner, WB2LQB

The License Class schedule for 2002-2003 is as follows: Fall Semester--Sept. 9, 2002 thru December 9, 2002 and Spring Semester--Feb. 10, 2003 thru May 12, 2003.

All classes will be held at 111 Westfall Road. The last dates of each semester will be the VE sessions. The classes will be Monday nights from 7 PM to 10 PM. The schedule of individual classes will not differ from this year. The VE sessions will all begin at 7 PM and continue until all participants become amateur radio operators (hopefully). I will announce exact room assignments closer to the date of the first class.

I am in the process of registering with the Rush Henrietta Continuing Ed program for the Technician classes only. We are hoping for a good turn out and success rate, as this is RARA's first endeavor of offering classes through a school district continuing Education Program.

### President Of RARRA—*(Continued from page 2)*

the club and so far no takers other than the incumbents. Our meeting will be the third Friday of June 2002. Nominations will have been held again at the May 2002 meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

For all the support the board and I received over the last year in the rebuilding the 146.88 repeater, we thank you. Hang in there with us and we will get the bugs worked out and the learning curve under control. For those of you that are not too sure or had a problem with the upgrade...DEAL...it is here to stay. As I have said before, I will not apologize for making the repeater what it is today. We are proud of it, so join us in our moment of joy and join and become a part of the club. The club will soon have the very best repeater in the area.

### Spring License Classes—*(Continued from page 4)*

Road. Bring all your friends interested in becoming a ham or upgrading.

## RARA RAG 20 Years Ago, June 1982

Ed Gable, K2MP

The June meeting then, as now, is the picnic with the venue at Powder Mill Park's Wadhams Lodge with John Golden, W2IRG, as picnic chairman. There was much news on the successful 1982 Hamfest with an attendance topping 5,000. The WX was perfect and 18 commercial ham vendors in the Dome arena made that area standing room only. Stan Zack, K2PSO, Hudson Division Director, was named ham of the year. The following officers were elected: President is Ed Holdsworth, N2EH; VP to Bill Thiel, K2KGE; Secretary is Al Goss, K2SPO; and Gil Chapin, WB2UTI as Treasurer. To the Board of Directors were W2EBF, AF2K, K2RJ, AC2K, KD2K, K2NC and K2HC. A large portion of this issue was devoted to news on the proposed NYS Bill to eliminate Sales Tax on Amateur Radio Equipment. A complete listing of area legislators was provided to enable a letter writing campaign in support of passage. (It did not pass — Ed) Printed was the result of the annual audit of RARA's financial records, with not only no issues found, but also ending with compliments to those in charge of the records. Public service activities were numerous this year including STPR road Rally, Scotch Bonnet Sailboat race, Mendon Pony Rally, WNY Pony Rally, Hamlin Beach Triathlon, Genesee Valley Cycling Club and Canaltown Days in Palmyra. A new advertiser was the Genesee Radio Amateurs, Inc., with a half page ad for the new Batavia Hamfest. From the want ads you could buy a Drake 4-line station from Jim Allen, KB2KY.

## Historical Bits

Ed Gable, K2MP

- 1920—First regularly scheduled broadcast station, KDKA, goes on-the-air in Pittsburgh, PA.
- 1921—First paid radio commercial is aired. A ten minute dialog for a NYC apartment building.
- 1993—US Coast guard discontinues CW use on 500 kHz Distress Frequency.

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